**July 16, 1854**

My poor wife Hattie is so distraught about Catherine, she is still not talking to anyone but James. She hasn’t been the same since James was hurt in the hemlock accident. He is her big brother, and she stays with him all day and tells him how he’ll get better soon because he can’t die and leave us. Most of the time she ends up crying. Jesse Buleche and Tim Bavel died today. Now James is the only one who had the hemlock who is alive. I feel bad for Ms. Laura, she was making the salad when we stopped at Fort Dodge and she thought that the hemlock was turnips. She let the boys have a small sample and they almost immediately started thrashing. Wade Jacobs gave the boys some charcoal to eat and since then the boys have been in a coma. Thank God for Wade,he had been poisoned with hemlock before and he knew what to do. It was a sure blessing.

Sunday services were done today and the boys were buried. Reverend Jacobs said a powerful sermon about the boys being better off in heaven.

In other news, Tally Richardson’s wife had a babe. She was named Je-

**Later**

I can’t believe it! As I was writing James woke up! Catherine was in the wagon with him when he opened his eyes and started to ask for water. He doesn’t know yet that Jesse and Tim are dead. We don’t want to tell him just yet. It’ll be too much.

Many of the families are setting up camp here because it is a good spot on a hill by the road. I could stay here for a while. My business as a tailor could flourish here. I talked it over with Hattie and she said that she wants me to stay here. I agree with her because we could have a good life here.

You know this is the last page in this here journal. It has become the ultimate consolation. This journal has seen times of joy and times of great sorrow. The old life, in Booneville is now coming to an end. This is a new life. So I will not call this the end but,

THE BEGINNING

By: Gideon Nicholiavich